

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. Apparatus for freeing a fishing lure and hook from obstructions comprising in combination:

a sleeve;

a slit in the sleeve for receiving a fishing line secured to the lure;

5 a plurality of chain elements secured to the sleeve; and

a line secured to the sleeve for lowering the sleeve on the fishing line  
and its chain elements to free the lure from obstructions.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the chain elements include a plurality of  
links.

10 3. The apparatus of claim 2 in which the links of the chain elements include  
barbs.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 which further includes a reel on which the line  
secured to the sleeve is wound.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 in which the reel includes a handle for holding the reel and the line wound about the reel.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the sleeve includes a longitudinal axis, and the slit in the sleeve extends diagonally with respect the longitudinal axis.

5 7. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the sleeve includes a longitudinal axis and the slit is generally parallel to the longitudinal axis.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the sleeve has a diameter, and the line is secured to the sleeve diametrically opposed to the slit.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the plurality of chain elements comprises  
10 five chain elements, each of which chain elements includes a plurality of links.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 in which each link includes a barb.